

**REMARKS**

**INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 8, and 14 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-16, 19, and 20 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Changes have been made to the specification only to correct typographical errors and/or omissions and place it in preferred and better U.S. form for issuance. No new matter has been added.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that "the density of the contour pixels is calculated by dividing a number of pixels in said predetermined window that have a contour level higher than a predetermined level by a total number of pixels in said predetermined window." Independent claims 8 and 14 have been similarly amended. Support for these amendments to the claims can be found in the originally filed Specification, at least in the first paragraph at page 9, which defines the density of contour pixels as "C/S."

**CONCLUSION**

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

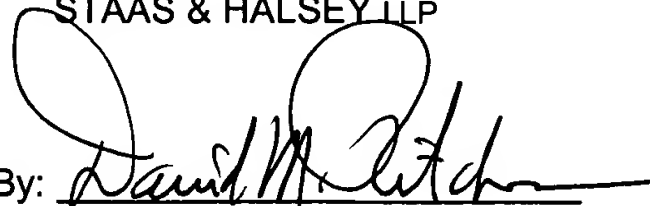
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

January 10, 2005

By:



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